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TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year 1959

W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,
F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Tarvin Rural District, for the year 1959

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1959.

The National Vital Statistics show a slight increase in the Birth Rate and a small decrease in the Death and Infant Mortality Rates. The latter 22.0 per 1,000 live births, is again the lowest ever recorded in this country.

The local Vital Statistics show a slight decline in the Birth and Death Rates and an increase in the Infant Mortality Rate.

There was a widespread epidemic of Measles in the district during the year, associated with its general prevalence throughout the country. There were 274 cases notified. 23 cases of Scarlet Fever and 9 cases of Whooping Cough were also reported. Again no case of Diphtheria occurred.

From the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector the extent, variety and importance of the work of the Public Health Inspectors can readily be seen. The difficulties in connection with Refuse Collection are noteworthy in this respect. Although the District, unlike many other authorities does not lack sites for tipping, the efforts made by the Health Department to maintain an efficient and regular Refuse Collection Service at minimum cost to the ratepayers are considerable, and the details can be read in the following pages of this Report.

As in previous years, I have again included an extract from my Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the Cheshire County Council in the South West Cheshire Division, of which the Rural District of Tarvin forms part.

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the staff of the Health Department throughout the year, and their great help to me in presenting this Report.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor	Charles Moss (Chairman)
"	G. W. Penk (Vice-Chairman)
"	L. N. Jones
"	H. E. Mottershead
	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
"	F. Newport
"	J. G. Harding
"	Rev. E. H. Barnes
"	H. Lewis
"	J. F. Windsor
"	H. Dimelow
"	R. N. Salmon
"	J. H. Griffies
"	T. Hughes
"	J. Probin
"	Rev. J. G. Lloyd
"	D. C. Mossford

Ex-officio:

Councillor F. N. Craddock (Chairman of the Council)

Clerk to the Council:

J. H. Moore-Dutton (Solicitor)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B., (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H. Office: 16, White Friars,
Chester. Tel. Chester 20071.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Rodent Officer and Petroleum Officer:

G. T. Woods, F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.); Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works (R.S.H.); Certificate of examination for membership of the Institution of Public Health Engineers. Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. Mason, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.); Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. K. Hughes, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.).

Clerk: A. Swain.

Clerk/Typist: Miss Jean Rock.

Rodent Operative: H. Williamson.

MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities**

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness and accident are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulance of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulance as an Agency Service.

(c) **Nursing in the Home**

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purpose of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics**, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas — Infant Welfare.

Hoole — Ante and Post Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester — Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

(e) **Hospitals**

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz.: Tarporlev and Whitchurch.

Larger Hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 16.5 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.4 for 1958.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 11.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 11.5 for 1958.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales, i.e., Death of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births was 22.0, the lowest ever recorded, the rate for 1958 was 22.5.

The National Neo-Mortality Rate for Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age was 15.8 per 1,000 live births.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Formation of District

The Tarvin Rural District was created in 1894 from parts of the Unions of Tarvin and Whitchurch. The Rural District of Malpas was created at the same time from the Union of Whitchurch. The area of the District was varied in 1936 by the Chester County Review Order, and major portions of Tarvin and Malpas R.D.'s were amalgamated to form the present Tarvin Rural District.

Area: 62,593 acres.

Population, estimated by Registrar General, Mid-Year, 1959	14,770
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	4,600
Number of houses built (i.e., completed in 1959)—	
Private Enterprise	20
Council Houses	Nil
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1959	£125,481
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1959 (Estimated)	£470

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959

Births

LIVE BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	109	111	220
Illegitimate	2	4	6
	<hr/> 111	<hr/> 115	<hr/> 226
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			15.3
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Births			1.06
Corrected Birth Rate			16.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births			2.6

Still Births

STILL BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 4
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			17.4
Total Live and Still Births			230

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES FOR LAST DECADE

ENG. AND					ENG. AND						
TARVIN R.D. WALES					TARVIN R.D. WALES						
1950	18.0	15.8	1955	....	....	....	16.2	15.0
1951	17.1	15.5	1956	....	....	....	15.11	15.7
1952	18.4	15.3	1957	....	....	....	16.9	16.1
1953	17.2	15.5	1958	....	....	....	17.8	16.4
1954	14.1	15.2	1959	....	....	....	16.2	16.5

DEATHS

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
107	81	188
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		12.7
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths		0.99
Corrected Death Rate		12.6

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES FOR LAST DECADE

ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES					ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES						
1950	11.6	11.6	1955	....	....	....	12.12	11.7
1951	12.3	12.5	1956	....	....	....	13.18	11.7
1952	11.4	11.3	1957	....	....	....	12.65	11.5
1953	9.9	11.4	1958	....	....	....	11.13	11.7
1954	10.4	11.3	1959	....	....	....	12.60	11.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY (excluding Abortion)

From Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
From other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	Nil
Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)	38

TABLE OF POPULATION ESTIMATED BY R.G. AND NATURAL INCREASE FOR LAST DECADE (Excess of Births over Deaths)

YEAR		ESTIMATED		YEAR		ESTIMATED	
		POP. R.G.	NATURAL INCREASE			POP. R.G.	NATURAL INCREASE
1950	....	14,520	77	1955	....	14,740	25
1951	....	14,630	39	1956	....	14,730	12
1952	....	14,550	73	1957	....	14,710	47
1953	....	14,640	81	1958	....	14,760	82
1954	....	14,750	26	1959	....	14,770	38

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	7	2	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 9

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., deaths of infants under 1 year
per 1,000 live births 39.8

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under ONE WEEK of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 7

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under one week
per 1,000 live births) 31.0

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one
week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 47.4

Deaths of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under four weeks per
1,000 total live births) 35.4

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—
Cancer of lung	5	1
Cancer of all other sites	9	10
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	15	16
Heart disease	50	26
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	3
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	4	5
Bronchitis	7	3
Other respiratory diseases	—	—
Nephritis	1	—
Prostate	1	—
Congenital malformations	3	2

Road traffic accidents	2	—
Other violent	1	2
All other causes	6	12
Total all causes	107	81

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 25; in the previous year there were 32.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 76, compared with '69 in 1958.

Deaths from Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions were 31; there were 25 in 1958.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis) during the year 1959

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	23	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	—	—
Cerebro spinal meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Measles	274	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	—	—
Salmonella F.P.	1	1	—
Totals	319	1	—

NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT

1936	25	1943	6
1937	10	1944	4
1938	35	1945	5
1939	15	1946	2
1940	27	1947	1
1941	17	1948/59	—
1942	9		

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1959

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—44	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	1	1	1	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

The Council have powers under the above Act to arrange for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am glad to record again that there has been no need for me to represent compulsory removal for any case investigated during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

Following suitable publicity throughout the district, the unit for mass radiography visited the District in June, 1959, and a gratifying response resulted. Attendance at Malpas was 367, at Tattenhall 206, at Farndon 134 and in addition many of the 1,000 people attending the unit while visiting the Cheshire Show came from the Tarvin Rural District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Details of piped water supplies in the various parishes of the District are as given in my previous report.

Mr. Thomas Pritchard, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has supplied me with the following information on new water mains and sewers installed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

The following Water Schemes have been completed during the year, making a total extension of main of 4,385 lin. yds.

Duddon and Clotton Hoofield	3"	1,333 lin. yds.
Tarvin—Chester Road	3"	600 lin. yds.
Tarvin—Weetwood	2" & 3"	1,989 lin. yds.
Tattenhall—Extension to supply private development	3"	77 lin. yds.
do.	2"	200 lin. yds.
Threapwood	2"	75 lin. yds.
Malpas—Chester Road	3"	107 lin. yds.

Schemes in Progress and Proposed

Northern Area 2nd Section

Work is proceeding and 9,620 lin. yds. completed out of a total of 10,815 lin. yds.

Wigland and Wychough Water

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has given approval to this scheme and work has commenced.

Chester Road, Malpas. Scraping Water Main

In view of the erection of the County Secondary Modern School it has been necessary to improve and extend the water mains, and in connection therewith 967 lin. yds. of 3" and 4" mains have been scraped.

Harthill Water

Negotiations have been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the Council to take over the Harthill Undertaking from the Bolesworth Trust Company Limited. The mains taken over comprise 4,000 lin. yds. and 240 lin. yds. of new main laid. Effective date of take over, 1st December, 1959.

Premises Supplied with Water

Domestic	2,546
Trade	973

SEWERAGE

Tarvin

A Public Inquiry into the Tarvin Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was held by Mr. E. L. Everatt of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the 20:5:59 and the Ministry's approval was given in principle on the 14:8:59.

Kelsall

The Scheme for Kelsall required finalising with Northwich R.D.C. The drawings will then be amended and the Specification and Bill of Quantities prepared.

Foul and Surface Water Drainage

Old Hall Street Housing Estate, Malpas

Approval to this Scheme was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at the end of the year. Work will be started early in the new year.

REPORT

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year ending December, 1959

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Lady and Gentlemen,

The year was a very busy one in connection with new duties relating to slaughterhouses, standard improvement grants and petroleum spirit stores as well as the normal work of refuse collection, housing repairs, slum clearance, the supervision of food premises and rodent control which again formed a major part of our activities.

The following pages give details of these and other matters to support my view that the standard of environmental sanitation in this Rural District is steadily improving.

The new standard improvement grant operating from June assists in providing modern amenities to older cottages and will help to continue this improvement. If all owners take full advantage of the provisions of the new Act, tenants as well as owner occupiers will benefit accordingly. It has been said that "Everybody undertakes new work with enthusiasm, the test of virtue comes when the novelty wears off."

The problem of the raising of standards of construction of slaughterhouses in the District has been tackled with enthusiasm by your technical staff and occupiers together, which will result in great future benefits.

The Council accepted the recent recommendations of the County Fire Brigade Authority in regard to conditions under which petrol is stored. These requirements have involved many visits and much correspondence in attempts to obtain compliance by informal action, as reported more fully in the section dealing with this matter.

Your slum clearance programme is proceeding according to plan and in a few years it will probably be quite exceptional to have to represent a dwelling for action.

Further welcome practical progress is shown in regard to the Tarvin sewerage scheme with the signs of it becoming a reality after many years on paper.

Housing conditions generally are better, and although there are still many applications for Council houses the majority of

these are mainly through a desire for the modern amenities lacking in the applicants' present dwelling. Standard grants should help to correct these conditions as mentioned above.

Again this year the Council have done well in extending their water mains to the more remote parts of the District. Without a good water supply, full amenities cannot be enjoyed by residents.

I must record my appreciation of the continued support and confidence of the Council during the year, and for the co-operation and advice so readily given by Dr. Birchall, Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and other Chief Officers.

The results of the industry and loyalty of your staff can be read in the following pages.

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE T. WOODS,

F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

WATER

Regular sampling of water supplies both main and local was continued throughout the year to test the bacteriological state of the water from various sources. In cases of adverse results a report was made to the Water Engineer, who took the necessary action with regard to mains or public wells. In some cases of private supplies where mains are not available emergency treatment of the water was carried out, and suitable advice given to consumers. A total of 167 samples were taken from main and local supplies.

One of the most frequent complaints received during the year was in regard to the hardness of the water where the supply had been changed from the soft upland surface water from Vyrnwy to the bore holes supply from Mid-Cheshire.

Although consumers undoubtedly prefer the softer water they have enjoyed for so long, the harder supply is perfectly satisfactory for consumption from the public health view, despite objections that the housewife finds it extravagant on soap and detergents where washing and cleaning processes are concerned.

The extension of the main supply to the Hargrave area was completed during the year and connections to private premises in the village and outskirts is proceeding satisfactorily.

HOUSING

Although there has been a great improvement in housing conditions in the District in the post war years, the restriction on council house building on financial grounds slowed up progress during 1959. Despite this a great many housing repairs were carried out by owners following informal action by your Public Health Inspectors.

It is rarely that statutory powers have to be resorted to, and the usual procedure of the officials of the Department is in conformity with the recommendation of the report of the Franks Committee, on the basis that "the individual has the right to enjoy his property without interference from the administration unless that interference is unmistakably justified in the public interest."

In September, 1955, a report to the Minister was made as required by the Housing Act, 1954, giving your proposals in regard to Slum Clearance in the Tarvin Rural District.

This report listed sixty-four dwellings in Class "D" and my subsequent report to you following the re-survey of "C" class houses raised the total number of dwellings expected to be dealt with to seventy.

Your report to the Minister estimated that at least fifty unfit dwellings would be dealt with in the first five year period of your programme.

At the end of 1959 you had dealt with 57 unfit dwellings since the Act of 1954. Your estimate has therefore been fulfilled.

The rate at which unfit dwellings will be represented in future must slow considerably, as I find that to-day owners are more willing to either carry out works themselves or wish to sell on vacant possession to permit a new owner/occupier to do necessary works.

Housing is one of the major services still left in the hands of District Councils. In the light of rising costs of building if this is to be considered as a social service it seems a pity that central policy regarding subsidies for Council building should restrict such to slum clearance. As a result the main hope of applicants for the tenancy of a Council house at present is the occupation of an unfit dwelling. This does not give any relief to the young married people, living with in-laws or relatives often under stress and tension.

During the year new Council building has been confined mainly to single bedroom flats, which although of restricted use for the purposes of slum clearance, does increase the supply of suitable accommodation for the elderly.

I must refer to the growing number of the type of applicants who demand Council house accommodation as a right. It used to be considered a man's first duty to provide shelter for his wife and family before anything else but there seems to be a widespread belief among young men to-day that accommodation for them after marriage should be found either by the local Council, the State, or by anybody other than themselves.

While there may be different opinions on this outlook, I must say that these feckless ones really do need looking after and only the Council as a Housing Authority can help them. Private

owners will not consider this type as desirable tenants. It might almost be said that they are in need of the care and attention of the local authority. Other applicants complain to the office that the dwelling they occupy should be condemned as unfit because it lacks a W.C., hot water supply or bath, and they demand a Council house on these grounds. Such dwellings cannot be classed as unfit solely for lack of desirable amenities. Many of us still have to do without several things our parents never even heard of.

The new Standard Improvement Grants should help towards correcting this state of affairs if private owners will only make use of them. Otherwise, it would appear that the Council must continue to build indefinitely for tenants of older houses who desire a Council house for the modern amenities it contains. In my view, overcrowding and unfit accommodation must be the yardstick of real need while Council houses are in short supply.

Certificates of Disrepair

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued during 1959. One application was received at the close of the year and dealt with in 1960.

Overcrowding

While an accurate figure for the number of houses or families overcrowded in the District cannot be given without a full survey, it is known from 93 housing applications investigated by the Department in 1959, that the overcrowding of 11 families comprising 46 persons was relieved by the provision of a Council house. There were 17 new tenancies, 2 exchanges and 4 transfers. Five vacancies were used in respect of slum clearance (3 houses and 2 bungalows).

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

Number of houses rendered fit by informal action	66
Number of houses rendered fit after statutory action	—
Number of Demolition Orders made	7
Number of Closing Orders made	3
Number on which Undertakings accepted not to re-let unfit premises but convert for farm stock	1
Number on which Undertakings to make house fit offered and accepted	1
Number on which Undertakings were cancelled after being made fit	—
Number on which Demolition or Closing Orders were cancelled after being made fit	2

Summary of Housing Action taken during Post-War Period

	1946/58	1959	TOTAL
Houses on which Demolition Orders have been made	79	7	86
Houses on which Closing Orders have been made	28	3	31
Unfit houses on which Undertakings to make them fit have been accepted	23	1	24
Unfit houses on which Undertakings have been accepted to convert to use for farm stock or store. (Not to permit human habitation)	10	1	11

Council House Tenancies

The records of housing applications and tenancies are kept by the Public Health Department, who supply full reports on the housing need of each applicant, after investigations by a visit to the house by one of your Public Health Inspectors. 93 new applications were received and at the close of the year the Register of Applications totalled 213 for houses and 59 for bungalows.

Seventeen casual vacant tenancies became available during the year.

Total number of Council houses tenanted at 31st December, 1959 670

Total number of above with tenants in agriculture 203

POST WAR HOUSE BUILDING

	1946/59		1946/59
Ashton	26	Malpas	94
Beeston	10	Oscroft	8
Nomansheath (Bickley)	8	Shocklach	4
Broxton	4	Tarvin	32
Clutton	14	Tattenhall (Edgecroft)	8
Coddington	4	Tattenhall	66
Duddon	27	Tilston	34
Edge	8	Tiverton	12
Farndon	60	Waverton	10
Gatesheath	8		
Huxley	4		
Kelsall	44		
		Total	485

Four houses are in course of erection at Tarvin. Four single bedroom flats in one block are being built at Waverton, Tattenhall and Malpas, respectively.

Housing of Old People

The Council have made special provision for the housing of elderly couples or single persons by the provision of two bedroom bungalows on their housing sites at Malpas (20 bungalows), Tatten-

hall (8 bungalows), Beeston (2 bungalows), Tilston (4 bungalows) and Ashton (4 bungalows).

There is other accommodation provided for old people in the District at the Maria Taylor Almshouses and the Cholmondeley Almshouses, Malpas, both of which have been improved to modern standards with grant aid.

Licensing of Condemned Houses

There are no condemned dwellings licensed for temporary occupation.

HOUSING ACTS, 1949 / 59

DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Twenty-nine preliminary applications for a Discretionary Grant were received and investigated during 1959. (There were 23 in the previous year).

One was refused, 16 were either not proceeded with or further details were awaited at the end of the year, 2 changed their applications to the new Standard Grant.

The remaining 10 were completed and considered by the Housing Committee. Discretionary Grants were approved in respect of these 10 of which 7 were tenanted dwellings and 3 owner occupiers.

The total estimated cost of improvements to these 10 dwellings was £6,219, with an extra estimated £2,185 for necessary repairs. Discretionary Grants were approved by the Council to a total of £2,813. One case involved the maximum of £400.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

STANDARD GRANTS

The Act came into operation on 14th June, 1959, and the new grant "as a right" was the subject of a great deal of misunderstanding by the public. Many applicants were under the false impression that if they desired just to convert an earth closet to a W.C. they had merely to call at the Council Offices to be handed a cheque towards the cost. The publicity given to the Act did not emphasise enough the basic requirement that all five amenities must be present on completion of improvement works and not merely any one or two of them.

This misunderstanding still exists, but is slowly giving way to reality and the new provisions should play a useful part in raising the standard of environmental sanitation in older houses.

Early administration of the Standard Grants leads me to comment on the hope that there will be a greater proportion of applications in future for dwellings with rent paying tenants.

From June to the end of the year 18 Standard Grants were approved to a total of £1,990, of which 7 were for the maximum of £155 per dwelling.

These 18 applications were in respect of 15 owner occupiers and 3 tenanted houses.

DRAINAGE

Eighty-five drainage plans were deposited during 1959 for examination and approval. These involved several visits to the site by your Inspectors to supervise and test the work.

In addition the steady conversion of pail closets and connections to new village sewerage schemes continues.

Drainage in combination is advocated wherever possible in order to save unnecessary expense and the drainage plans are prepared for the owners by the Department as a further encouragement to modernise drainage without undue formality.

Previous reports have referred to the trouble repeatedly experienced at Kelsall and Tarvin in the difficulty of adequate disposal of foul drainage. Temporary expedients have been employed from time to time to minimise the worst of the nuisances where effluents have burst through the sewage sick land to cause complaint. As I have previously emphasised only the provision of main sewers in these two villages can put right this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

At the time of the preparation of this report and following an enquiry into the Tarvin Sewerage Scheme, the project has reached the stage where tenders for the work are to be invited.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Tarvin Rural District is in the areas of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and the Cheshire Rivers Board.

Co-operation is maintained between your Public Health Officers and the Board's officials.

No statutory action was called for during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

This service continues to provide its headaches as is the case with most other Rural Councils. The problem of trying to collect from many new properties in addition to new demands for collections from occupants of isolated older properties who have previously disposed of their own refuse continues to be almost insoluble without increasing costs.

Extremes in the weather, sickness among the men, breakdowns of vehicles, loss of working days when Bank Holidays occur, increase in annual holidays, coupled with the rising tonnage of the regular collections in all weather conditions call for a spare wagon and extra labour.

In an effort to keep down rising costs, a further drive was made during the year to obtain the co-operation of residents in keeping down the volume of refuse put out for collection, much of which could be burned. It seems that some folk cannot bear to see an empty bin on collection day even in the summer months when there are no ashes available and an immediate search is made for all sorts of rubbish to fill the dustbin up to the brim.

I am glad to report that most new residents who start by demanding the frequent collections which they have previously had in a city understand when the situation is explained and their co-operation requested. There are of course the exceptions who are the first to complain when their demands lead to a rise in rates.

The schools in the area are now much more co-operative in burning their large amounts of waste paper

Disposal

Disposal is by controlled tipping and much land has already been reclaimed for agricultural use. The Council are fortunate in having many sites in the District.

Barton tip is closed and in use for grazing.

The larger tips in the District are situated at Waverton, Iddinshall, Malpas, Churton and Edge. There are also small tips at Ashton and Tattenhall.

SALVAGE

The position regarding the price obtainable for waste paper salvage did not improve during the year. Although contraries are removed when baling, the board mills are very choosy in regard to the kind of waste paper they will accept. For example, newspapers or periodicals alone are refused, and these constitute a major portion of the paper brought in.

The salvage collection was continued in conjunction with the normal refuse collection without any special labour or transport being involved.

The following sale of salvage was made during the year as compared with the previous year:—

	1959/60	PREVIOUS YEAR
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Waste Paper	203 13 9	204 11 3
Scrap Metal	20 10 1	— — —
Rags and Sacking	9 5 6	8 12 9
Rubber	— — —	10 0
	<hr/> £233 9 4	<hr/> £213 14 0

The nett cost of the Refuse and Salvage Collection Service for the year ending 31st March, 1960, was £7,520.

CAMPING SITES

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued by the Council during the year in relation to sites or individual moveable dwellings.

Control under the Town and Country Planning Act is in operation with respect to certain caravans brought into the District for any extended period.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The year has been a very busy one especially with regard to housing repairs, and a great many improvements in sanitation have been carried out in the District with and without the assistance of grant aid.

Informal requests and persuasion are used to get work done before difficult cases are reported to Committee for official statutory action. This explains the lack of formal notices served, as only informal action is usually necessary.

The following list gives an indication of part of your Inspectors' activities during 1959 where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this Report:—

Informal notices served re—

Housing defects	66
Unsatisfactory water supply	6
Defective drainage	32
Dirty conditions	5
Insanitary closets	4
Foul ditches	18
Offensive accumulations	18
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	10
Defects in factories	7
Petroleum spirit stores	72
Food premises	28
Number of written complaints received	320

In addition many complaints are made verbally to the Inspectors during their district work or by visits or telephone to the Inspectors' private houses. Those who would object to excessive hours themselves, are the most prone to ring or call at the home of the Public Health Inspector during the evening or week-end. They feel they have a right to expect the Inspectors to be available at any hour of the day or night, usually for trivial complaints which could wait for a reasonable time.

EXHUMATION

It has been said that the Health Service provides attention from the womb to the tomb but few realise that the supervision of an exhumation is one of the many "other duties" of the Public Health Inspector. At one of the cemeteries in the District

it was found that a corpse had been buried in the wrong grave by mistake. The exhumation and correct re-interment with necessary decorum and privacy was arranged and supervised by the Department.

SHOPS

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950, in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature and sanitary accommodation of shops in the District where labour is employed.

Informal action was taken in a few cases regarding sanitary accommodation but no statutory action was necessary during 1959.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937/59

Seventy-one factories are on the register. These include 14 non-power and 52 power. Following inspection a notice to remedy defects was served on 1 occupier. This was complied with without further action. Other cases found were dealt with by verbal caution.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937/59

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises		Number on Register	Number of inspections	Forma. Notices served
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	14	19	1
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	52	74	—
(3)	Building sites	5	5	—
Totals		71	98	1

OUTWORKERS

There were no outworkers on the register during 1959.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Following complaint, observations on commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time. Informal action was taken in respect of one factory where defective firing and overloading of the boiler caused complaint.

During the year the Council have taken no action under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

ERADICATION OF INSECT VERMIN

Three dwellings were treated against cockroaches during the year.

Several complaints were received regarding the hibernation of flies in the roof spaces of houses. In one case with an uncovered water tank, dead flies were discharged through the water tap.

Spraying of the roof space with D.D.T. was recommended in this case, after the cleansing and covering of any open water tanks.

No infestations of bedbugs were reported.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Last year I drew attention to the number of persons who were proposing to provide private pest services for farmers following the winding up of the service of the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee. I expressed the opinion then that any efficient rodent control in this District is to be encouraged by every means, and such private operators who give a reliable and satisfactory service would be welcomed.

During the year the number of such operators has dwindled and with the exception of a farm pest service in the Malpas area, there is no widespread private activity in any other part of the District.

The Council are required to continue the inspection of all premises in their area to ascertain if they are infested with rats or mice and if so, that adequate and satisfactory treatment is carried out.

The Council's disinfection service is kept as self-supporting as possible, but its very nature creates the position that the more successfully the Council's operator clears premises of rat infestations, the less is the demand for renewal of contracts from satisfied users, until re-infestation occurs.

The ideal position in theory would be that the District is clear of rats and mice, but in practice it is satisfactory to record that there are no reservoirs of heavy infestations, as used to exist.

The Council's various tips and sewerage works were regularly inspected and treated as required.

At the annual test baiting of sewers, the systems tested were reported negative.

The following is an extract from the annual return made to the Ministry:—

	Local Authority Property (not sewers)	Dwellings including C. Houses	Non-Agri- cultural Business Premises	Agri- cultural Premises	TOTAL
No. of Inspections made	275	243	240	540	1298
No. of Treatments carried out	23	27	36	59	145
No. of Sewer Manholes Tested	62				

KNACKERS YARD

Since the re-construction and improvement of the Malpas Knackers Yard, there has been little need to treat these premises against rodent infestation, which says much for the design and vermin proofing carried out.

The Management are aware of the necessity to avoid any nuisance as far as possible, and on the rare occasions that complaint is made, investigations have shown that because of an emergency there has been a sharp increase in the number of carcasses to be processed (for example, extreme and prolonged frost affecting sheep) when the plant has been working at full pressure and overloading has occurred.

During the year sixteen horses were dealt with at these works, which is the only premises in the District licensed for the slaughter of horses.

LICENSED PREMISES

A routine inspection of all licensed premises in the District was carried out during the year, and I am glad to report that conditions found were generally very good and a great improvement over those found during the previous inspection three years ago.

In three cases grounds for criticism were found in the condition of the cellars or the sanitary accommodation. Only informal action was called for to remedy undesirable conditions.

FOOD PREMISES

Dirty conditions were found in one of the cafes where a new occupier again demonstrated the difference that unsuitable people in the food trade can make, even with good premises. Following a report on conditions to your Public Health Committee, the threat of prosecution of the occupier was sufficient to bring about a rapid change, and I am glad to report that this particular person has now left the business. Despite continued enforcement of Acts and Regulations this shows that the most important factor for clean food preparation is still the right type of person and mental attitude to the necessity for strict hygienic practices.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

A survey of all School Canteens was carried out during the summer in conjunction with officials of the County Council and a joint report on conditions found and improvements suggested was made to the Education Authority. As with many other things, desirable improvements of premises are tied up with the question of costs and the amount of money available for the purpose from the public purse each year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ninety-one premises in the District where food is prepared, offered or exposed for sale have been frequently visited during the year and action taken to have facilities installed to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

This work is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in the back rooms where food is prepared for sale to the public.

The premises known to the Department as being engaged in the handling, preparation or the sale of food include:—

Ice Cream retailers	60
Cafes (no cooked meals)	11
Restaurants (cooked meals)	11
Licensed premises	41
Abattoirs	8
Butchers' shops	16
Other miscellaneous (grocers, confectioners, etc.)	40
Fried Fish shops	3
Bakeries	16

Verbal cautions were given in cases where the condition of the premises had been allowed to deteriorate. No statutory action was necessary however.

MILK

Under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1955, the Tarvin Rural District is a specified area, making compulsory the use of special designations for all retail sales of milk.

Milk obtained by farm-workers from their employers is exempted.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food but random samples of milk are taken by the County Council for biological examination.

Milk distributors and Dairies are registered and Dealers' and Supplementary Licences are still issued by the District Council.

No. of Registered Dairies (not Dairy Farms)	4
No. of Registered Milk Distributors	20
No. of Dealers' Licences issued	7
No. of Supplementary Licences issued	7

ICE CREAM

Sixty premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, almost all of these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the District. Samples are taken by your Public Health Officers for analysis at the Laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicles of retailers.

No. of samples analysed	9
No. of samples resulting in Grade 1	4
No. of samples resulting in Grade 2	5
No. of samples resulting in Grade 3	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 4	—

FOOD POISONING

The first case of food poisoning in the District since this disease became notifiable in 1938 occurred during the year.

The presence of *S. Typhimurium* was notified in a child four weeks old, who was a patient in hospital suffering from a query enteritis.

Unfortunately, the notification was received three weeks after the onset, which was too late to enable any useful information of the likely source of infection to be obtained, and diligent enquiries made failed to locate the source.

DISEASE OF ANIMALS ACTS

Notifications of suspected Anthrax during 1959	53
Notifications confirmed as Anthrax	1

WASTE FOODS ORDER, 1957

One plant at Tarvin is licensed by the County Council for the pressure boiling of waste foods in accordance with the provisions of the Order.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

During the year the Slaughterhouse Reports (Direction) was issued by the Ministry, and in accordance with the requirements of the Act, a joint meeting of officials and interested parties was held for an exchange of views.

The Council's policy with regard to existing slaughterhouses is to encourage the smaller trader to face the cost of improving his premises to the new standard and to erect new where improvement is not practical.

Following discussions with the trade and in Committee there is a widespread opinion that better quality and cleaner meat is produced in the smaller slaughterhouses, where the slaughtermen have a greater interest in the appearance for sale of the meat, than would be possible in a large factory abattoir.

There are, understandably, opponents to this view.

In consequence there has been great activity during the year in obtaining details for the Report to the Minister and with advice regarding the improvements required from the existing slaughterhouse occupiers. I feel confident that carcase meat produced in the Tarvin Rural District now and in the future will compare favourably with any other district regarding the absence of cruelty in slaughter, cleanliness and care in dressing carcasses, and in transport to the consumer.

MEAT INSPECTION

Over a thousand visits to slaughterhouses were made during the year and examination of all carcasses has been maintained often at great personal inconvenience to the Inspectors. There was an increase in the number of animals slaughtered, particularly in cows (destined for export meat) following the declaration of the County as a special area. The number of reactors sent in under the Tuberculosis (Reactors) Order, 1950, increased from 261 in 1958 to 395.

Meat marking as approved by the Ministry is in operation and 100 per cent. inspection was maintained for the year.

This involves important decisions to be made on the spot by the meat Inspector, whose judgment is open to challenge when the owner of the meat has the right to a second opinion.

In consequence sometimes these judgements involve financial loss to the butcher. It says much for the reputation and confidence in your Inspectors that in no case was any decision questioned.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health:—

Year 1959	Cattle ex Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	Horses	Total
Numbers killed	809	1,275	165	3,877	10,626	—	16,752		
Numbers inspected	809	1,275	165	3,877	10,626	—	16,752	
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci									
Whole carcasses condemned	10	57	32	43	83	—	225	
Part carcasses condemned	155	649	10	176	2,139	—	3,129	
Percentage affected	20.30	55.37	25.45	5.64	20.91	—	20.02	

Year 1959	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total
Tuberculosis only							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	11	—	—	3	—	14
Part carcasses condemned	17	329	17	—	78	—	441
Percentage affected	2.10	26.66	10.3	—	.76	—	2.11
Cysticercosis							
Part carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refrigeration treatment	2	11	—	—	—	—	13
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Reasons for Condemnation of Whole Carcasses

General tuberculosis	14	General oedema	62
Moribund	35	Pathological emaciation	52
Septicaemia	11	Immaturity	7
General bruising	2	Peritonitis	1
Pyæmia	2	Septic peritonitis	1
Gangrenous pneumonia	3	Icteric	1
Acute febrility	25	Septic pericarditis	6
Umbilical pyæmia	5	Other diseases	12

During the year a total of 395 animals were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.

Localised tuberculosis was found in 338 of these and no tubercular lesions were visible on post mortem examination in 57.

Two cows in addition were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals condemned by your Food Inspectors as unfit for human consumption was 25 tons, 11 cwts., 13 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Meat

Condemned meat is collected from the slaughterhouses by contractors for treatment and disposal for purposes other than human consumption.

Dealers object to having condemned meat coloured, as prejudicing the sale for animal feeding, but it has long been my opinion that such a requirement is necessary, together with sterilising treatment by licensed dealers before re-sale as dog meat to the public.

Cysticercus Bovis

During the year a further 13 cases were discovered, the sites of the infestations were as follows:—

External Masseter Muscle	Internal Masseter Muscle and Heart Muscle
12	1

The carcases were sent for refrigeration.

The following shows the varying incidence of this parasite found during routine inspections of carcases and offal during the past few years.

Year	Beasts	Cows	Total	Year	Beasts	Cows	Total
1951	1	14	15	1955	1	3	4
1952	5	9	14	1956	4	—	4
1953	4	23	27	1957	7	19	26
1954	2	2	4	1958	6	11	17

FOOD ADULTERATION

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, has been supplied by Mr. Howard Hughes, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending 31st December, 1959:—

Nature of Sample	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Apples	1	—
Aspirin Tablets	1	—
Brandy	1	—
Coffee and Chickory Essence	1	—
Curry Powder	1	—
Flour (Self-Raising)	1	—
Gelatine (Edible)	1	—
Gin	1	—
Golden Raising Powder	1	—
Jellies (Table)	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Milk	20	
Milk (Channel Islands)	11	
	—	
Milk (Condensed)	31	2
Milk (Evaporated)	1	—
Saccharin Tablets	1	—
Sausages (Beef)	1	—
Sweets (Buttered)	1	—
	—	—
	47	2
	—	—

Particulars of Samples not up to Standard

1343	Milk	9.2% extraneous water	Fined £10 Plus £2. 16s. 0d. costs
1344	Milk	5.8% extraneous water	Fined £10 Plus £2. 16s. 0d. costs

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928/36

Petroleum Spirit (Petrol) Stores

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored under licence.

Following recommendations of the Home Office, the County Fire Brigade Authority carried out an inspection of all stores of inflammable substances in the District. A detailed report on petrol stores was supplied to the Council, with recommendations as to works required.

At the same time the new condition of licence operated from 1st January, 1959, which requires petrol storage tanks which have been installed for 20 years to be pressure tested successfully. Licensees were advised that early arrangements for this should be made, but many were still not tested at the end of the year. The Public Health Committee decided to extend the time of grace by six months.

Number of licensed stores on the register at Dec., 1958	103
Number of licensed stores discontinued at Jan., 1959	1
Number of existing licences to store renewed in 1959	102
Number of new stores inspected and licensed	2
Number of transfers of licences	2
Total number of licensed stores on register at Dec., 1959	104
Number of retailers of petroleum spirit	28

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50 (BURIAL OF THE DEAD)

No action was called for during 1959 under the above Section of the Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The licensing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is a duty of this Council.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirements to register.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3 (adopted 12th August, 1890).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1 (adopted 5th April, 1938).

Building Bye-laws (adopted 21st November, 1953).

The Cheshire County Council Act, 1953. Certain sections of this Act are in operation automatically in all districts of the County.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health
Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1959

Dr. WALTER J. BIRCHALL M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
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ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES OF SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1959

The Division includes the Borough of Ellesmere Port and the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin. The total population at 1st April, according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid 1958) is 80,560, and the area is 115,548 acres.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination again occupied pride of place in the activities of the staff. Large numbers of young persons between the ages of 15 and 26 registered for Vaccination following the publicity associated with the untimely death of a prominent young footballer from the disease in the Spring of 1959.

The Ambulance Service for the first time for a number of years showed both a decrease in mileage and a decline in the number of patients carried; and this applied also to the Chester City Ambulance Service in their capacity as Agency Service. Towards the end of the year preparations were in hand for the change over of the Ambulances to Radio Control, and the ultimate change of administrative control from the Divisional Committee to Central control at the County Hall.

October saw the introduction of a Chiropody Service for elderly persons of limited means, either free of charge or on reduced terms. This supplied a long felt need and was immediately taken up with enthusiasm by the Chiropodists and the old people concerned.

Measles and Whooping Cough were again the chief infectious diseases notified and showed an increase compared with the previous year.

There was increased activity in the Domestic Help Service, which can be considered to be an expanding service of great value enabling many elderly infirm persons to maintain themselves in their own homes without having recourse to institutional maintenance.

I would like once again to express my appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the various Voluntary Helpers at Clinics and Welfare Food Centres throughout the Division.

WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE
DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
Report for Year ended 31st December 1959

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Sec. 22)—Care of Mothers and Young Children

A—Mothers' Clinics:

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Ante-Natal	369	2410
Post-Natal	132	240
Dental:		
Pre-Natal	4	7
Nursing Mothers	2	6
Dentures Supplied	1	—

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics:

	ANTE-NATAL		POST-NATAL	
	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Ellesmere Port	294	1821	96	193
Little Sutton	75	589	36	47
	<u>369</u>	<u>2410</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>240</u>

B—Young Children's Clinics:

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
(1) Infant Welfare—		
To 1 year	955	9895
1—2 years	—	1504
2—5 years	—	1469
(2) Specialist—		
Ophthalmic	18	53
Dental Treatment (under 5)	137	141
E.N.T. (under 5)	14	19

(3) Day Nurseries—

	DAILY AVERAGE NO.	
	ATTEND- ING	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Aged 0—2 years	12	3010
2—5 years	22	5308

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder:—

Eye Clinics—

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Hoole	4	7
Ellesmere Port	14	46
Totals	18	53
Number of children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed		6
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment		5

Welfare Centres—	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES		
	0-1	0-1	1-2	2-5
Barrow	12	134	35	95
Christleton	62	675	108	103
Ellesmere Port	322	3704	301	262
Farndon	14	154	32	73
Huntington	31	270	58	73
Ince	21	126	27	35
Kelsall	35	393	164	162
Little Sutton	166	1537	168	92
Malpas	28	258	90	106
Overpool	83	504	24	5
Saughall	39	459	92	93
Tarvin	16	263	127	137
Tattenhall	19	147	63	27
Upton	107	1271	225	206
	955	9895	1504	1469

WELFARE CENTRES

The attendances at the Mothers' and Young Children's Clinics throughout the Division remained stable. The attendances at Mothers' Clinics being 2,663 as compared with 2,386 in 1958, and at Young Children's Clinics 12,868 as compared with 12,915 in 1958.

The Committee approved the purchase of a Film Strip Projector and Screen costing £40 for use at Clinics throughout the Division.

Ellesmere Port

A Cleaners' Cupboard costing £9. 15s. 3d. and a 4 Drawer Filing Cabinet and accessories costing £31. 14s. 0d. were purchased during the year.

Owing to the removal of the Day Nursery from Ellesmere Port it was necessary to appoint a temporary part-time handyman at this Welfare Centre. Mr. E. Davies was appointed and commenced duty on the 7th December.

Little Sutton

It was found necessary to increase the number of hours per month worked by the Handyman at this Centre from 12 to 18. The increase took effect from the 1st August.

The Committee approved the purchase of a Tall Pillar Weighing Machine costing £27. 18s. 0d., and an Electric Sterilizer costing £14.

Farndon

The Child Welfare Clinics were altered to the first and third Tuesday afternoons in each month, commencing in May.

Overpool

The Rental for the Hire of the Hall was increased from 10/- to 12/- per Clinic as from the 1st March.

Upton

The Committee recommended to the County Health Committee that consideration should be given to the provision of County owned Clinic premises in this area in view of the rapidly increasing population.

Child Welfare Clinics are held as follows:—

Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port.	Tuesday and Friday afternoon each week. Doctor in attendance on Tuesday only.
Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port	Toddlers—1st Friday afternoon in each month.
Welfare Centre, 462, Chester Road Little Sutton.	Monday afternoon each week.
Community Centre, Overpool.	1st and 3rd Thursday afternoon each month.
Village Hall, Ince.	4th Thursday afternoon each month.
Village Hall, Barrow.	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoon each month.
Women's Institute Christleton.	1st and 3rd Thursday afternoon each month.
Memorial Hall, Farndon.	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon each month.
Village Hall, Huntington.	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon each month.

Parish Hall, Kelsall.	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon each month.
Jubilee Hall, Malpas.	1st, 3rd and 5th Monday afternoon each month.
Vernon Institute, Saughall.	1st, 3rd and 5th Monday afternoon each month.
Radcliffe's Hut, Tarvin.	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon each month.
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall.	1st and 3rd Monday afternoon each month.
Village Hall, Upton.	Thursday afternoon each week.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held as follows:—

Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port.	Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning each week.
Welfare Centre, 462, Chester Road, Little Sutton.	Monday morning each week.

Midwives' Clinics and Preparation Classes are held at the Welfare Centre, 462, Chester Road, Little Sutton, on Thursday afternoons each week.

Vaccination and Immunisation Clinics are held as required.

WELFARE FOODS

MINISTRY AND PROPRIETARY BRANDS

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued to operate satisfactorily, largely owing to the splendid co-operation of the voluntary persons and members of the W.V.S. who have been most helpful. The voluntary worker at the Ashton distribution point informed me in August that she could no longer carry out the distribution of Welfare Foods and it was thus necessary to close this centre. Efforts are being made by the Organiser of the W.V.S. and the Health Visitor to find a suitable person to carry out the work in this area. The distribution point at Tushingham was closed during the year owing to lack of demand.

The following is a summary of the number of articles issued during the year:—

Ministry

NATIONAL	COD		
DRIED MILK	LIVER OIL	A/D TABLETS	ORANGE JUICE
17,442	3,681	2,728	25,326

Proprietary Brands

MILK FOODS	CEREAL FOODS	OTHER COMMODITIES
8,761	771	1,757

The above figures show a decrease of 3,400 tins of National Dried Milk over the previous year, but show an increase of 400 A.D. Tablets and 1,500 bottles of Orange Juice. The fall in the

issues of National Dried Milk is thought to be due to the large variety of Proprietary brand Milk Foods available costing only a little more than the National Dried Milk. The sale of the Proprietary brand milk foods at Welfare Clinics has noticeably increased during the past two years.

Ministry Welfare Foods are distributed at the following centres:—

Welfare Clinics

Ellesmere Port, Little Sutton, Overpool, Ince, Barrow, Christleton, Farndon, Huntington, Kelsall, Malpas, Saughall, Tarvin, Tattenhall, Upton.

Voluntary Persons

Churton, Duddon, Dodleston, Elton, Huxley, Malpas, Tilston, Waverton.

Proprietary brands of Welfare Foods are issued only at the Welfare Clinics in the Divisional area.

Day Nursery, Ellesmere Port

Attendances during the year were lower than the previous year due to the proposed move of the Day Nursery from Ellesmere Port to the Hooton Park Pavilion. During the March quarter an average attendance of 36 per day was maintained which is normal for the time of the year when absences are greater owing to Bronchitis, colds, Tonsillitis and other respiratory ailments. In the June quarter attendances were lower than the same quarter of the previous year, only averaging 40 per day, this being due to the impending move of the Day Nursery, only priority cases being accepted and the waiting list of non-priority cases being closed. The fall in average attendances continued during the September and December quarters, only averaging 35 per day during the September quarter and 34 during the December quarter.

The health of the children and staff has been quite good throughout the year, absences being mainly due to Bronchitis, colds and other respiratory ailments. One of the children was involved in a slight accident at the Nursery, the cause of which was not known. The child injured her left eyebrow and eyelid and was treated at the local hospital. One of the Nursery Assistants was also involved in a slight accident injuring the back of her head and was absent from duty for one week.

During the early part of the year the Committee were informed that it would be necessary to vacate the Ellesmere Port premises and it was arranged that the Day Nursery should be temporarily transferred to the Hooton Park Pavilion, whilst a new Day Nursery was being built in Ellesmere Port. It was necessary for various adaptations to be carried out, and additional equipment to be bought, and to arrange for coach transport to convey the children and Nursing Staff to and from Ellesmere

Port. The following is a list of items authorised by the Committee and carried out:—

- (a) Adaptations costing approximately £106.
- (b) Installation of an Immersion Heater.
- (c) Cleaning and treating the floors.
- (d) Hat and Coat Rack.
- (e) Hoovermatic Washing Machine.
- (f) Electric Drying Cabinet.
- (g) Reconditioned Gas Cooker.
- (h) Floor Polisher and accessories.
- (i) Interior Decoration.
- (j) Fitting of Guards to Radiators.
- (k) Coach transport.
- (l) Boarding up of windows.
- (m) Special Car Seats for babies.

The Day Nursery closed at Ellesmere Port on Friday evening the 4th December and re-opened at Hooton Park Pavilion on Monday morning the 14th December, the removal of furniture and equipment taking place on the 8th December.

Whilst the Day Nursery was at Ellesmere Port it was classified as a 50 place training Nursery, but owing to reduced accommodation at the Hooton Park Pavilion it was necessary to limit the Day Nursery to a 30 place training Nursery.

It is understood that work on the new Day Nursery in Ellesmere Port will commence early in 1960 and it is hoped that the Nursery will occupy the new premises in the same year.

The Day Nursery closed for the annual fortnight's holiday from the 27th July to the 10th August, and also closed from the 24th to 28th December for the Christmas holiday.

During the year seven of the Nursing Staff resigned (Deputy Matron, Staff Nursery Nurse, and five Nursery Assistants), and suitable replacements were made.

At the close of the year there were 36 children on the register, 23 of whom were priority cases.

Costs

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Day Nursery for the financial year ended 31st March, 1959, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:—

1957/58: 12/5d. 1958/59: 11/11d.

Average cost throughout the County was:—

1957/58: 13/5¾d. 1958/59: 13/6d.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Number of births during the year 1,533 (including 33 still-births) (adjusted for inward and outward transfers).

Transport

The cars of the Tattenhall, Farndon and Malpas District Nurses were sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation for £181. 7s. 6d., £110. 2s. 6d. and £118. 15s. 7d. (nett) respectively. The three District Nurses are now using their own cars.

Appointments

Mrs. D. Clarke commenced duty on the 6th March as District Nurse/Midwife, Tilston, in place of Miss Priest who retired on the 30th November, 1958.

Accommodation

The Tilston District Nurse's house was internally decorated at a cost of £106. 19s. 10d.

Furnishing replacements were made at the Tarvin District Nurse's house at a cost of £90.

A Chain Link Dividing Fence was provided at the Tattenhall District Nurse's house at a cost of £12. 17s. 6d.

CONVALESCENCE

The sum of £155 was allocated to the Division for the year ending 31st March, 1960, for Convalescent Treatment.

Two cases were sent for convalescence during the year, one a mother and her baby for two weeks to Prestatyn costing £25. 4s., the other an aged lady to West Kirby costing £7.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.59—31.12.59 amounted to £2,154. 7s. 6d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. VACCINATION

(1) Primary Vaccination—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
(a) Pre-School Children	656	676	1332
(b) School Children	106	95	201
(c) Adults	56	59	115
Total	818	830	1648

(2) Re-Vaccination—

(a) Pre-School Children	1	3	4
(b) School Children	38	26	64
(c) Adults	83	142	225
Total	122	171	293

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Incomplete—

	Males	Females	Total
(a) Pre-School Children	130	115	245
(b) School Children	8	2	10
Total	138	117	255

Completed—

(a) Pre-School Children	602	653	1255
(b) School Children	52	53	105
Total	654	706	1360

Re-Immunised—

All Children	279	314	593
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C. WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

(a) Pre-School Children	682	717	1399
(b) School Children	47	45	92
Total	729	762	1491

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1959.

The fees paid to Doctors for Vaccination and Immunisation are slightly less than double the amount for the previous year (1958—£1,264. 7s. 0d.). The reason for the increase is that more persons (mainly the 16–26 age group for Poliomyelitis Vaccination) went to their own doctor for their vaccination than in 1958.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The scheme for the vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year. Although the Ministry in August, 1958, extended the scheme to include all persons born on or after the 1st January, 1933, very little response came at first from young persons born in the years 1933 to 1942 and in consequence at the beginning of the year there were only 479 persons registered and awaiting vaccination and a further 538 persons waiting for their second injection. However, on the death of a notable young footballer in the Spring of 1959, applications from this group of young persons were received in large numbers. This resulted in a temporary shortage of vaccine, demand exceeding the supply, and as a result some delay in the vaccination programme occurred. Supplies of vaccine were expedited by the Ministry and by the

end of July nearly all those who had applied for registration had received two injections. In addition to the new registrations, there were also large numbers of persons who had had two injections in 1958 and were eligible for a third injection. An intensive programme of Poliomyelitis vaccination was carried out during the months of June and July, all those persons who were eligible and available received their appropriate vaccination.

Poliomyelitis vaccination was carried out at the various clinics in the area, at Factories, Offices and by General Practitioners in their Surgeries and at their patients' homes. I am indeed grateful to the Factory Doctors and General Practitioners for the invaluable assistance in this scheme.

The following is a summary of the vaccination carried out during the year:—

No. of children given 1st injection only	119
No. of children given 2nd injection (having had 1st injection the previous year)	454
No. of children given 1st and 2nd injection	2988
No. of expectant mothers given 1st injection only	24
No. of expectant mothers given 2nd injection (having had 1st injection the previous year)	37
No. of expectant mothers given 1st and 2nd injection	436
No. of young persons (16—26) given 1st injection	21
No. of young persons (16—26) given 2nd injection (having had 1st injection the previous year)	30
No. of young persons (16—26) given 1st and 2nd injection	3292
No. of ALL groups given 3rd injection	7073
No. of ALL groups awaiting vaccination on 31st December, 1959	245

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The scheme for the B.C.G. Vaccination of school children aged 13 and above continued throughout the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

No. of Consent forms issued	740
No. of children for whom Consent forms were returned	611
No. of children tested by Mantoux Test	551
No. of children vaccinated with B.C.G.	440
No. of children with a positive reading at 8 weeks	359
No. of children positive to 12 months follow up Mantoux Test	527

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1959

DISTRICT	DISEASE																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
	Scarlet Fever				Whooping Cough				Measles				Pneumonia				Dysentery				Food Poisoning				Erysipelas				Paralytic				Non-Paralytic				Acute Poliomyelitis				Acute Encephalitis				Puerperal Pyrexia				Paratyphoid Fever																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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Statistics relating to cases of Tuberculosis on Notification Registers of District Councils in the Division

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.59	266	87	353	264	83	347	530	170
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year	24	2	26	18	5	23	42	7
3. Number of cases re-moved from Register during year	12	1	13	13	1	14	25	2
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.59	278	88	366	269	87	356	*547	*175
								*722

* This figure is made up as follows:—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1. Ellesmere Port M.B.	254	78	332
2. Chester R.D.C.	189	42	231
3. Tarvin R.D.C.	104	55	159
	<u>547</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>722</u>

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The total mileage performed by the vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service was 7,000 miles lower than the previous year (1959—142,037, 1958—149,222). The number of patients transported showed a decrease of 200 over the previous year (1959—16,023, 1958—16,214).

The mileage of the Agency Service, Chester City Ambulance Service, was also lower than the previous year (1959—15,766, 1958—18,186) and a decrease in the number of patients carried (1959—2,606, 1958—3,494).

Two of the Ambulance Vehicles were replaced during the year. Bedford Ambulance OMB.307 was replaced by a new Bedford Ambulance, and Morris Dual Purpose Vehicle RMA.598 was replaced by a new Bedford Dual Purpose Vehicle. The Bedford Ambulance OMB.307 was retained as a relief vehicle, and Morris Dual Purpose Vehicle was sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation for £90. 12s. 6d.

Towards the end of the year all vehicles were fitted out with Radio, and in December Radio Control of all Ambulances operated from the County Control Headquarters in Chester, and appears to be working smoothly and satisfactorily.

Two members of the Ambulance Staff resigned during the year, and two other members were promoted to the Control Headquarters. Suitable replacements have now been made.

The Ambulance Supervisor, Mr. E. Clapperton, was due to retire from the service of the County Council on attaining the age of 65 on the 22nd September, 1959. The Committee recommended that his services be extended to the 31st March, 1960. This was subsequently confirmed by the County Health Committee and the County Finance and Staffing Committee.

The Ambulance Depot was internally and externally re-decorated during the year at a cost of £257. 15s. 0d., and the cycle shed at the rear of the Ambulance Depot was suitably enclosed at a cost of £28. 10s. 0d.

Twelve members of the Ambulance Service received awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for Safe Driving during 1958.

	No. of Vehicles 1	Total No. of Journeys 2	Total No. Patients carried 3	No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3 4	Total Mileage 5
A. Directly Provided—					
Ambulances *	4	2,264	6,369	736	53,566
Cars *	4	2,364	9,654	172	88,471

B. By Agency—

Ambulances	....	....	5	2,606	2,606	320	15,766
Cars	....	....	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Amb.)							

C. Supplementary—

Ambulances	....	....	—	—	—	—	—
W.V.S. Taxi.	Cars	—	195	214	—	—	4,004

*Includes one used for relief purposes in this and other Divisions when vehicles are off the road for repair.

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1959, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was $2/4\frac{1}{4}$ d. per mile. The average cost throughout the County was $2/7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile.

The personnel establishment of the Ambulance Service is as follows:—

- 1 Supervisor.
- 1 Senior Driver.
- 13 Driver Attendants.
- 1 Driver Mechanic.
- 1 Female Cleaner (part-time).

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The demand for the Domestic Help Service again shows an increase, 154 cases were attended during the year, an increase of 19 over the previous year. Similarly the number of cases of continued need at the end of the year shows an increase of 18 cases over the previous year. The majority of the persons requiring domestic help are aged persons who by reason of their age, infirmity, or ill-health require a little assistance each day, or in some cases, once, twice or three times a week. The number of hours supplied varies in accordance with the need of each case. In many cases the need for domestic help is a permanent one, generally for the remainder of the patient's life. In other cases the need is a temporary one; the patient waiting to be admitted to hospital or to one of the County Council Residential Homes for the aged.

The department works in close co-operation with the Hospitals and the County Welfare Department in this connection and, whenever possible, everything is done to assist the aged, infirm, and those in ill-health. Every effort is made in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the service.

The following is a summary of the cases of continued need at the end of the year.

3 cases have had Domestic Help for 8 years					
1	"	"	"	"	6 "
1	"	"	"	"	5 "
4	"	"	"	"	4 "
3	"	"	"	"	3½ "
1	"	"	"	"	3 "
7	"	"	"	"	2½ "
4	"	"	"	"	2 "
9	"	"	"	"	1½ "
11	"	"	"	"	1 "
40	"	"	"	"	less than 1 year

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

- A. Number of new applicants 148.
(of these 47 were cancelled)
 - B. Number of Domestic Helps employed at 31.12.59 69
 - C. Number of cases attended during the year 154
 - D. Number of cases of continued need at 31.12.59 84
- 32 cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year.
- 4 cases were defined as Future Recovery cases.
- In 3 Future Recovery cases collection was deferred.
- In 2 Future Recovery cases recovery of the accumulative balance was approved.
- In 19 cases the debt was cancelled.
- In 3 cases the assessment was reduced.
- In 1 case the engagement of a relative was approved.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER CARE

A. Number of cases investigated in Division:—

(1) Tuberculosis—

- (a) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 4 completed 36
(Primary Investigation)
- (b) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 22 completed 331
(Follow-up visits)
- (c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:—
 - (a) Removed from area 11
 - (b) Recovered 7
 - (c) Died 6
- (d) Non-Tuberculous 2

(2) Other than Tuberculosis—

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Nursing Equipment

280 articles were loaned to elderly, nursing and handicapped persons during the year. The period of loan varies in accordance with the need, in the first instance the loan is for three months which can be extended if required. There is a deposit of 2/6d. or 10/- on each article (depending on the nature of the article) and in some cases (wheel-chair, commode, bed, mattress) a weekly rental is charged. Persons who are in receipt of National Assistance are not required to pay a deposit or rental. During the year the income from Rentals was £70. 13s. 0d.

The Nursing Equipment is mainly stored at the Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port, and the following is an inventory of the various items held at the Welfare Centre (many of the items listed are out on loan):—

Invalid wheel-chairs	14	Urinals	18
Water/Air beds	2	Air rings	8
Dunlopillo mattresses	2	Sputum mugs	2
Pillows	3	Sputum flasks	12
Sheets, single	18	Breast pumps	3
Sheets, draw	17	Commodes	6
Sheets, rubber	23	Crutches (pairs)	3
Bed pulley	2	3-legged walking sticks	3
Bed cages	3	Plastic bags	6
Back rests	11	Linen bags	6
Bed pans, various	28	K.D. receivers	2
Nocturnal Enuresis Alarm	1	Walking sticks	4

In addition the District Nurse/Midwives each have a small stock of the smaller items—bedpans, urinals, rubber sheets, etc.

C. Handicapped Persons

(i) At the end of the year there were 83 cases on the handicapped persons' register, many of whom were in regular employment. All cases have been visited by the Health Visitors during the year, and in the majority of cases where the person was not in regular employment the services of the County Council were not required.

(ii) Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons' Act)—Nil.

D. Foul Washing Service

Four persons required the use of this Service during the year. The scheme provides sheets (single and draw) for patients who are incontinent and are being nursed at home. The fouled laundry is collected twice weekly by the Ambulance Service and taken to the hospital (Clatterbridge or Chester City) for laundering. A charge is made for the service in accordance with the income of the household.

CHIROPODY SERVICE

In October the scheme for the provision of a Chiropody Service was introduced by the County Council. The service is available to persons over the age of 65 years, physically handicapped persons and expectant mothers recommended for such treatment by their family doctor or district nurse. Persons who receive any National Assistance benefit, or where sole income is National retirement pension, are eligible for free treatment under the provisions of the scheme. Persons in receipt of income from other sources may have to pay towards the cost of treatment, depending on the amount of the additional income.

The persons are allowed to choose from a list of recognised Chiropodists, the Chiropodist they wish to attend for treatment. In some cases when the patient cannot attend the Chiropodist's Surgery, the Chiropodist can visit the patient at his/her home.

The following is a summary of applications received and work carried out during the months of October to December:—

Applications received	216
Applications granted free treatment	159
Applications granted half cost treatment	4
Applications awaiting completion	43

ESTIMATES, 1960/61

Estimates for the year 1960/61 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

EXPENDITURE	£
Welfare Centres	2,965
Day Nursery	3,325
Midwifery	210
Health Visiting	40
Home Nursing	1,860
Vaccination and Immunisation	690
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	2,350
Ambulance Service	9,235
Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care	335
Domestic Helps	5,760
Administration	7,290
Payment of County Districts for Notifications of Infectious Diseases	250
	<hr/> £34,310 <hr/>
INCOME	
Sale of Welfare Foods	1,550
Day Nurseries	1,800
Prevention of Illness—Nursing Equipment	30
Domestic Help Contributions from Patients	1,060
	<hr/> £4,440 <hr/>

